

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 00645 271425Z

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ACTION SS-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8333

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0645

LIMDIS

E.O. 016652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, UY

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO

REF: MVD 637

PERSONAL FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

1. IN MY MESSAGE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS YESTERDAY, PARA3, I RAISED AGAIN THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU MIGHT VISIT MONTEVIDEO BRIEFLY, INCLUDING DAY OR TWO FOR REST AT PUNTA DEL ESTE, ON YOUR FIRST PROPOSED VISIT TO LA. I NOTED THE GENUINE DISAPPOINTMENT EXPRESSED BY FONMINISTER BLANCO WHEN I EARLIER TOLD HIM THAT YOU WERE NOT SCHEDULED TO VISIT URUGUAY ON THIS TRIP.

2. WHEN I CALLED ON BLANCO THIS MORNING TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' MOST WELCOME VISIT, HE AGAIN RAISED THE QUESTION OF YOUR VISIT AND ASKED ME TO CONVEY HIS VIEWS TO YOU. HE SAID SUCH A VISIT WOULD HAVE EXTRAORDINARY IMPORTANCE FOR URUGUAY AND FOR HIMSELF FOR TWO REASONS:

1) IT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE A STRENGTHENING INTERNAL IMPACT FOR THE BORDABERRY GOVERNMENT BECAUSE YOUR STOPPING HERE WOULD BE A PRESTIGIOUS EVENT AND,

2) IT WOULD IMMEASURABLY STRENGTHEN PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AND FONMINISTER BLANCO'S EFFORTS TO CONTINUE THE KIND OF STATESMAN-LIKE DECISIONS AND ACTS IN WORLD AFFAIRS WHICH HAS CHARACTERIZED THEIR POLICY AND WHICH MORE OFTEN THAN NOT HAS PUT THEM INTO

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HARMONY WITH US POSITIONS, NOT ONLY IN THE HEMISPHERE BUT ALSO IN

WORLD AFFAIRS IN GENERAL INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. THIS IS EVIDENT FREQUENTLY EVEN WHERE URUGUAY HAS LITTLE OR NO DIRECT INTEREST AS FOR EXAMPLE THE IMPORTANT CONSISTENCY OF THEIR EFFORTS RELATING TO THE PRG ISSUE AT THE RECENT GENEVA LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE. URUGUAYAN COINCIDENCE WITH US AT OASGA WILL ALSO BE IMPORTANT ON SUCH ITEMS AS CUBA, TRADE BILL, ENERGY, RAW MATERIALS PRICES. ETC.

3. IF YOU COULD MAKE A STOPOVER SUCH AS SUGGESTED IN MY MESSAGE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS YESTERDAY, IT WOULD HAVE GREAT

IMPACT HERE

AND I AM CERTAIN, BE VERY PLEASANT FOR YOU AS WELL.

BUT IF YOU CANNOT DEVOTE THAT MUCH TIME, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOUR STOPPING HERE EVEN BRIEFLY ENROUTE TO BUENOS AIRES FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF COMING INTO TOWN TO CONFER FOR A WHILE WITH FONMINISTER BLANCO AND CALL ON THE PRESIDENT BEFORE CONTINUING YOUR JOURNEY WOULD PAY REAL DIVIDENDS TO US AND HAVE THE IMPORTANCE TO URUGUAY DESCRIBED BY THE FONMINISTER. FOR EXAMPLE, ARRIVAL AT CARRASCO AIRPORT AROUND 8:00 AM WITH A SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FOR BUENOS AIRES AT ABOUT 10:30 OR 11:00 AM COULD, IT SEEMS TO ME, BE WORKED IN BY ADJUSTING YOUR DEPARTURE TIME FROM ANDREW AFB AND IT WOULD NOT DETRACT FROM THE TIME YOU HAVE AVAILABLE IN ARGENTINA AND THE REST OF YOUR TRIP. FLYING TIME FROM MONTEVIDEO TO BUENOS AIRES IN YOUR AIRCRAFT IS ONLY ABOUT 25 MINUTES.

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